

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A spectroscopic probe, comprising:
an optical input port for receiving illuminating light;
a sampling port, for illuminating a sample with the illuminating light and collecting light scattered by the sample;
an optical output port for outputting scattered light received from the sampling port; and
a block of transparent material, having two opposed angled faces for reflection of light from one to the other within the block, light passing through the block between the optical input port, the sampling port and the optical output port;
wherein the light between the sampling port and one of the input and the output ports is reflected between said opposed angled faces of the block.
2. (Original) A spectroscopic probe according to claim 1, including optical fibres connected to the input and output ports, for delivering the illuminating light and receiving the scattered light respectively.
3. (Previously Presented) A spectroscopic probe according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said angled faces has a reflecting or partially reflecting coating.
4. (Original) A spectroscopic probe according to claim 3, wherein said coating on at least one of the angled faces is a dichroic filter coating which reflects light of a first wavelength (or range of wavelengths) and transmits light of a second wavelength (or range of wavelengths).
5. (Previously Presented) A spectroscopic probe according to claim 3, wherein the other of said angled faces has a reflecting or partially reflecting coating.

6. (Previously Presented) A spectroscopic probe according to claim 1, wherein said ports comprise lenses.

7. (Original) A spectroscopic probe according to claim 6, wherein the lenses are GRIN lenses.

8. (Currently Amended) A component for a spectroscopic probe, comprising a block of transparent material; having ~~two angled faces~~multiple faces, at least two of the faces are angled faces on sides of the block for reflection of light from one to the other within the block, and for reflecting light between a sampling port and an input or output port of the spectroscopic probe, and at least two other faces are connected at different angles to the angled faces on the sides of the block and are perpendicular to edges of the block.

9. (Original) A component according to claim 8, wherein at least one of said angled faces has a reflecting or partially reflecting coating.

10. (Original) A component according to claim 9, wherein said coating on at least one of the angled faces is a dichroic filter coating which reflects light of a first wavelength (or range of wavelengths) and transmits light of a second wavelength (or range of wavelengths).

11. (Previously Presented) A component according to claim 9, wherein the other of said angled faces has a reflecting or partially reflecting coating.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of making a component for a spectroscopic probe, the component comprising a block of transparent material, having at least one angled face for reflecting light;

the method comprising the steps of:

providing a reflective face on a sheet of transparent material;

~~taking a sheet of transparent material, the sheet having a face;~~ and

cutting said component from the sheet of transparent material ~~with a cut which~~
is at an angle to said face, thereby producing said block with at least one angled face.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein said face of the sheet is coated with a reflecting or partially reflecting coating, prior to the cutting step, whereby the angled face in the resulting component is provided with said coating.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the coating is a dichroic filter coating which reflects light of a first wavelength (or range of wavelengths) and transmits light of a second wavelength (or range of wavelengths).

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein an opposing face of the sheet is also coated with a reflecting or partially reflecting coating, prior to the cutting step, thereby producing a second angled face with a said coating in the resulting component, opposing the first-mentioned angled face.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, including the step of removing a prism-shaped section from the angled face of the block.

17. (New) A spectroscopic probe, comprising:

- an optical input port for receiving illuminating light;
- a sampling port, for illuminating a sample with the illuminating light and collecting light scattered by the sample;
- an optical output port for outputting scattered light received from the sampling port;
- an optical fibre connected to the output port, for receiving and transmitting the scattered light to an external apparatus; and
- a block of transparent material, having two opposed angled faces for reflection of light from one to the other within the block, light passing through the block between the optical input port, the sampling port and the optical output port;

wherein the light between the sampling port and one of the input and the output ports is reflected between said opposed angled faces of the block.